



Clarendon County Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2013, 6:00 PM
District Three District Office
Regular County Council Meeting

Those in attendance:

County Council Chairman, Dwight L. Stewart, Jr.
Councilman, Billy G. Richardson
Councilman, Benton Blakely
Councilman, AC English
County Administrator, David W. Epperson
Clerk to Council, Dorothy M. Levy

Absent: Vice Chairman WJ Frierson

Press in attendance: Konstantin Vengerowsky, Clarendon Citizen, Sharron Haley, The Item (Clarendon Bureau)

Others in attendance included:

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|----------------|--|---------------------|
| Lynden Anthony | Vickie Williams | John Truluck |
| Sandi Tucker | Fred Tucker | Deepal S. Eliatamby |
| Lee Bledsoe | Mary Cooper | Frances Richbourg |
| Connie Dennis | And other citizens of Clarendon County | |

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with opening comments. He thanked Dr. Dennis for allowing Council to hold March's Council meeting at the District Office in Turbeville. He continued by stating that he, Administrator Epperson, and Councilman Blakely attended the Palmetto Finalist Award Ceremony honoring East Clarendon Middle-High School as one of two finalists in the Palmetto Finalist Award. He stated that the other school won but we are very proud that one of our schools participated and we thank everyone for what they did in order to be one of the finalists. Councilman Blakely led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Richardson, council voted unanimous approval to the council meeting minutes for the Regular Meeting which was held on February 11, 2013 with minor corrections.

V. USDA Grant Opportunity

Ms. Vickie Williams requested approval to apply for two USDA Community Facility Grants for the Fire Department. She stated that the Fire Department has requested to

replace their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Units (SCBA). She continued by stating that the Fire Department would like to replace 125 SCBA at a total of \$833,000. Ms. Williams stated that the two applications would be for Clarendon County Fire Department and the Summerton Fire Department.

Administrator Epperson stated that 20 years ago, the SCBA units were purchased together and now they need to be replaced.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman English, council voted unanimous approval giving Ms. Williams authorization to apply for two USDA Community Facility Grants.

VI. Ordinance 2013-01

Administrator Epperson stated that we need an Ordinance authorizing us to Issue Bonds for the loan portion. He stated that Ms. Williams will complete the application for the Grant and the Loan but we need Council's approval to issue the Bonds. Administrator Epperson concluded by stating that the Grants will cover \$100,000 of the \$833,000 and the balance would be borrowed to cover the difference.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Blakely, council voted unanimous approval to first Reading of Ordinance 2013-01.

VII. Proclamation Declaring March as the American Red Cross Month.

Chairman Stewart stated the importance of the American Red Cross and the assistance that they provide for citizens in disastrous situations.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman Richardson, Council voted unanimous approval to the Proclamation Declaring March as the American Red Cross Month.

VIII. Request for the Clarendon County Transportation Committee

Chairman Stewart called the Transportation Committee meeting to order.

Administrator Epperson requested Council's approval to use C-Funds in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to purchase and replace road signs that were stolen in the county.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman English, Council voted unanimous approval to use C-Funds in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to purchase road signs materials.

Chairman Stewart stated that the Transportation Committee was now closed.

IX. Board Appointment

Administrator Epperson stated that the Legislative Committee established the Re-Assessment Appeals Board. He stated that the board is required to hear information presented by a property owner who appealed the assessed property value given by the Assessor's Office. He further stated that if the property owner does not agree with the Re-Assessment Appeals Board's decision, the property owner has the right to appeal the board's decision to the Law Court in Columbia.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman English, Council voted unanimous approval to appoint Mr. William Stanly Moore to serve a one year term on the Clarendon County Re-Assessment Appeals Board representing district 3.

X. Financial Report

Mr. Lynden Anthony began his report by stating that eight months in the fiscal year; our Revenue is less than anticipated. He continued by stating that the Local Option Sales Taxes are less than anticipated. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that Fees and Fines Revenue coming into the county are less than anticipated as well. He continued by stating that Department Managers and Elected Officials are asked to cut spending and reduce expenses. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that General Fund Revenue as of the end of February was \$13,161,928 which is 68% of what was Budgeted. He stated that Expenditures as of the end of February was 63% of what was Budgeted.

Mr. Anthony stated that Water and Sewer continued to show strong Revenue of \$501,429 and a Surplus of \$133,012. He continued by stating that the Weldon Auditorium tickets sale are not as robust as we anticipated and we do have a slight deficit in the Weldon Auditorium Enterprise Fund. Mr. Anthony continued by stating that The C-Fund has an uncommitted balance of \$46,712 as of the end of January. He farther stated that the money has been received and set aside for these projects: Poston Road Extension, Pompey Town, William Gibbons, Widening of JW Carter Road, and Hector Walker Road.

Mr. Anthony concluded by stating that in the month of February, we will do deep patching on Oak Grove Church Road.

XI. Administrator's Report

Mr. Epperson started his report by stating that we are in the process of hiring a certified animal control officer. He continued by requesting council to reduce the number of roads on the paving list. He stated that we have 40 roads on the paving list, seven roads are scheduled for paving this year, and four roads are scheduled for paving next year.

Mr. Epperson continued by thanking Mr. Truluck and his staff for the work

that was done to bring Project Rally (Spirit Pharmaceuticals) to Clarendon County. He continued by stating that Governor Haley came out for the announcement and we appreciate her and her staff for that.

Mr. Epperson further stated that the first reading of the Fiscal year 2013/2014 Budget Ordinance would be held in April at the next council meeting. He continued by stating that all of the budget packets have been turned in by the department.

Mr. Epperson stated that we are actively looking for an area in the Brewington Area to place a Recycling Center. He concluded by stating that the USDA project Phase 1B, is moving forward and hopes to have the bids out in May with the construction going forward thereafter.

XII. Chairman's Report

Chairman Stewart began his report by stating that we were very happy for the exciting news on March 6, about Spirit Pharmaceuticals coming to Clarendon County. He concluded by stating that he and Councilman Blakely attended the Ruritan Meeting in Turbeville, and he and Councilman Richardson will be attending their second Riley Institute Meeting on March 20.

XIII. Executive Session

Chairman Stewart stated he needed a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss two items: Project Penny and a Personnel Matter in the Engineering Department.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman English, Council voted unanimous approval to go into Executive Session. The Executive Session began at 6:37 pm.

On motion by Councilman Blakely and seconded by Councilman English, Council voted unanimous approval to come out of Executive Session and back into open session. The Executive Session ended at 7:21 pm.

XIV. Open Session

i. Economic Development – Project Penny

Council gave consideration to a Resolution Pursuant to Title 4 Chapter 1 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended, the Expansion of the Boundaries of

the Multi-County Industrial Park jointly developed with Sumter County to include certain Real Property; to provide for the Manufacturer's Abatement for [Project Penny]; and other related matters.

On motion by Councilman English and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted unanimous approval to adopt Resolution 2013-05 for Project Penny.

ii. Personnel Issue – Engineering Department

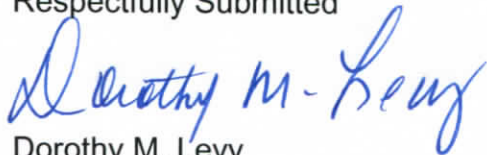
Chairman Stewart stated that our current engineer Mr. Mark Blackmon had plans to retire on June 30, 2013 and his decision to retire was not because of his illness. He stated that Administrator Epperson went through the interviewing process with some engineers and Administrator Epperson is asking council for authority to make an offer for employment to an engineering candidate with a salary up to \$ 70,000.

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman English Council voted unanimous approval to give Administrator Epperson the authority to make an offer for employment to an engineering candidate at a salary up to \$ 70,000.

XIII. Adjournment

On motion by Councilman Richardson and seconded by Councilman Blakely, Council voted unanimous approval to adjourn the council meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Dorothy M. Levy
Clerk to Clarendon County Council

